GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:397
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
ERADICATION OF BLINDNESS AND LEPROSY
Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of leprosy and blindness have increased recently particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of leprosy and blindness patients in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has provided any special package for the eradication of blindness and leprosy to the State;

(d) if so, the State-wise details of amount sanctioned for this purpose during the current year and till date;

(e) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines to the States for the utilization of Central assistance or grant; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) and (b): The number of cases of leprosy in the country, including in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, are on decline. The total number of cases of leprosy as on 1st March, 2004, 1st March, 2005 and 1st March, 2006 were 2.65 lakh, 1.48 lakh and 0.95 lakh respectively.

As per National Survey on Blindness (2001-2002), prevalence of blindness in 50 plus population was 8.5 % and estimated population prevalence in general population was 1.1%. No further Survey on Blindness was conducted subsequently.

(c): National Leprosy Eradication Programme and National Programme for Control of Blindness are already being implemented as centrally sponsored programmes. No other special package for the eradication of blindness and leprosy to the States has been provided ;

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f): General Financial Rules issued by the Ministry of Finance contain provisions for proper and timely utilisation of grants.